

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/776,137

Examiner

Leith A. Al-Nazer

Applicant(s)

GOVORKOV ET AL.

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**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 24 August 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5, 8, 11, 12 and 20-25.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

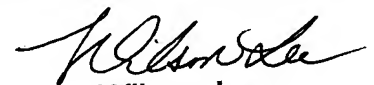
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

  
**Wilson Lee**  
**Primary Examiner**

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Allowable Subject Matter*

1. Claims 1-5, 8, 11, 12, and 20-25 are allowed.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record fails to teach or suggest one or more of the limitations found in independent claims 1, 12, and 20. U.S. Patent No. 5,313,487 to Fujikawa et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,549,551 to Ness et al., and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0012376 to Das et al. all teach similar systems to that of the present invention. However, with respect to independent claim 1, Fujikawa, Ness, and Das, as well as the other prior art of record, fail to teach or suggest the combination of steps comprising receiving a signal from a photodetector indicating the emission of an optical pulse in the oscillator chamber; receiving the optical pulse from the oscillator chamber; applying a trigger ionization voltage to an ionization element in the discharge chamber, subsequent to the charging of the pair of main electrodes, such that the discharge of the charged pair of main discharge electrodes substantially coincides with the receiving of the optical pulse, the signal received from the photodetector being used to determine the timing of the application of the trigger ionization voltage. With respect to independent claim 12, the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest the combination of steps comprising applying a trigger ionization voltage to an ionization element in the discharge chamber, subsequent to the charging of the pair of main electrodes; receiving an optical pulse

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from an oscillator chamber; and timing the application of the trigger ionization voltage such that the discharge of the charged pair of main discharge electrodes substantially coincides with the receiving of the optical pulse, a determination of the timing including receiving a signal from a pick off loop for the oscillator chamber, the signal indicating the application of a charging voltage to a pre-ionization unit of the oscillator chamber. With respect to independent claim 20, the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest the combination of steps comprising receiving an optical pulse from a second discharge chamber; and applying a trigger ionization voltage to an ionization element in the first discharge chamber, subsequent to the charging of the pair of main discharge electrodes, such that the main discharge voltage between the main discharge electrodes is discharged, in response to the applying of the trigger ionization voltage, at a time that substantially coincides with the receiving of the optical pulse. Therefore, independent claims 1, 12, and 20, as well as all respective dependent claims, are allowable over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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***Communication Information***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leith A. Al-Nazer whose telephone number is 571-272-1938. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on 571-272-1834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LA

  
Wilson Lee  
Primary Examiner